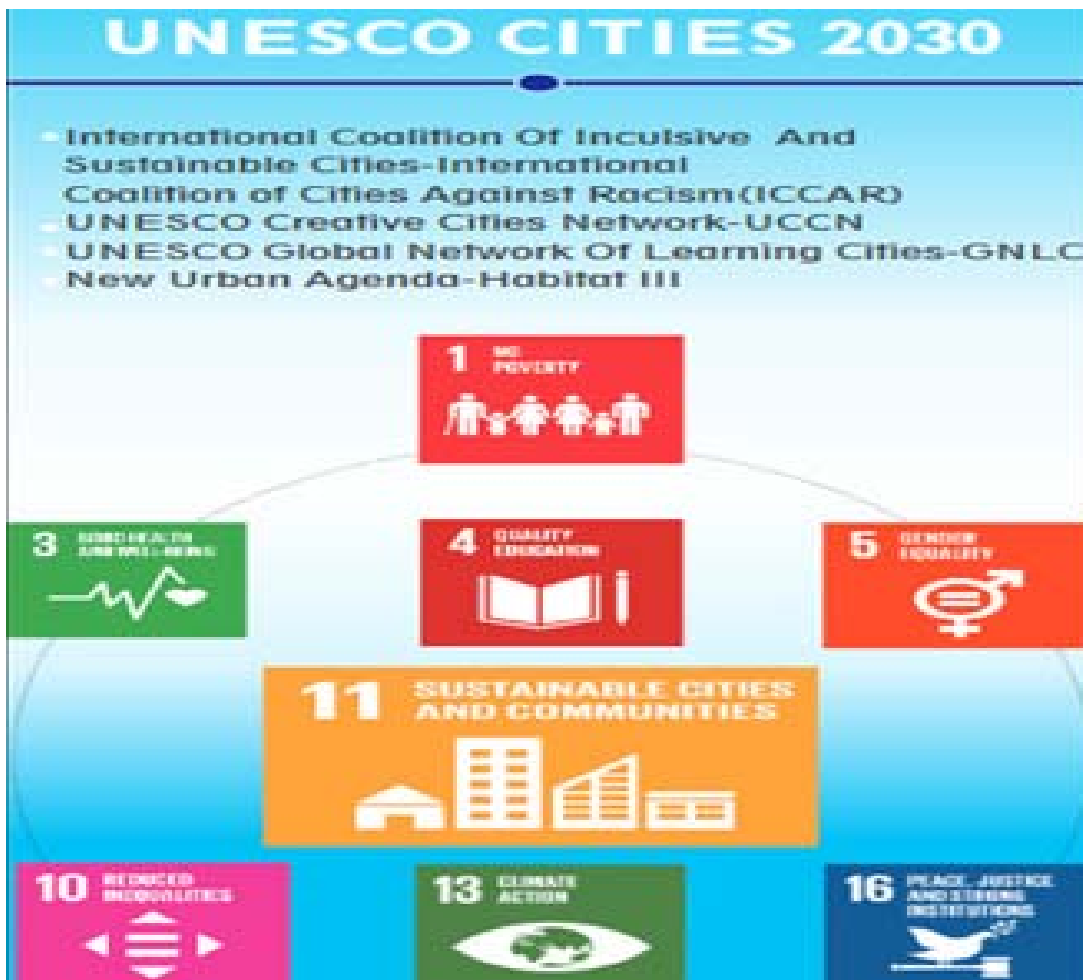




## Uganda National Commission for UNESCO/ICESCO

### GUIDELINES ON MEMBERSHIP TO THE UNESCO AND ICESCO CITIES NETWORKS



FEBRUARY 2021

*Guidelines on Membership to the UNESCO And ICESCO Cities Networks*

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**Cover:** A Creative Banner showing UNESCO Cities Platforms in relation to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals fulfilled by the UNESCO platforms and networks.

## **STATEMENT FROM THE UGANDA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

Many trends are affecting cities: rapidly growing populations, particularly in the developing world; changes in demographics; increased citizen engagement and participation for more robust, inclusive policies; the advent of new technologies and their impact on the creative economy; and greater risk of disaster, including epidemics, pandemics and others as a result of climate change. UNESCO advocates for more people-centred development models, including in the area of urbanisation to “re-humanise” cities. The Organization’s long-standing experience in the sciences, education, culture and communication and information provides insights into the multifaceted transformations of our urban spaces.

For many years, UNESCO has been pivoting many of its activities and research towards challenges in urban communities, in step with changing demographics. UNESCO’s multidisciplinary approach offers a unique added value to international debates on development, and creates real, positive change at the heart of communities. As part of its response to the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO recently strengthened its comprehensive approach to working with cities through the establishment of a dedicated UNESCO Cities Platform, which gathers eight UNESCO networks and programmes. The UNESCO Cities Platform reflects the transversal approach of its work with cities towards implementing the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The programmes and networks of UNESCO’s Cities Platform directly contribute to the attainment of SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities. In recognition of all these efforts, the United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October every year as the World Cities Day, to explore issues around global urbanization, encourage cooperation among countries and to contribute to sustainable urban development.

The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO/ICESCO (UNATCOM) being the representative of UNESCO and ICESCO at the National level is positioned to play the catalytic role and promote the interest of UNESCO and ICESCO and share them with line ministries and other stakeholders involved. It is on the basis of the above that UNATCOM has initiated the preparation of these guidelines to help the newly elevated cities in Uganda to consider application to the membership of the International Cities Platforms.

It is our hope that the guidelines will be useful to the cities as we encourage the elected and technical officials to use the book as a valuable reference material.

Rosie Agoi

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

## **LIST OF ACCRONYMS**

**GAPMIL:** Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy Cities

**GNLD:** Global Network of Learning Cities.

**ICCAR:** The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities.

**ICESCO:** Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

**ICCROM:** International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

**ICOMOS:** International Council on Monuments and Sites

**IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature

**MIL:** Media and Information Literacy Cities

**UCCN:** UNESCO Creative Cities Network

**UNATCOM:** Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

**UNESCO:** United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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## **About the Guidelines**

This book is designed to be a guide to provide awareness and the associated enlightenment and empowerment of the staff, other city stakeholders and the management of the cities in the country about ICESCO, UNESCO and the respective programmes to stimulate interest in the various platforms and networks of the Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the UNESCO's Cities Platforms for the purpose of making applications for membership.

Specifically, the guidelines are intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. To create awareness and promote understanding and interest of the cities in ICESCO and UNESCO's mission, programmes and activities in general
2. To promote support for ICESCO and UNESCO's specific programmes for Cities at the grassroots level, thus contributing to the promotion of the values, messages and actions espoused by these Organisations.
3. To enable the cities build capacity to acquire the eligibility for candidature to any of UNESCO Cities Alliances, Platforms and as Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development.
4. To provide baseline information as a basis for cooperation between UNATCOM and the cities and amongst the Cities themselves at the national, regional and international levels and cooperation with other ICESCO and UNESCO's networks.

## **TARGETED USERS**

The guidelines are meant for reference by the political and technical staff of the cities, some senior citizens, cultural leaders and Institutions of higher learning in the cities, and representatives from the Ministries of Local Government and Urban Development.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, Uganda got ten cities at a go, bringing the total number of cities in the Country to eleven. Never before, in the history of growth of cities has any country experienced such a sudden surge in number of cities. This therefore raised concern as to whether Ugandans are prepared to manage and cope with such a sudden development.

The cities have since been operationalised and have embarked on fulfilling the roles expected of cities. Arua, Fort Portal, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Lira, Masaka, Mbale, Mbarara and Soroti are our new cities. As we get to the third quarter of the financial year 2020/21, the second category namely Entebbe/Wakiso, Kabale, Moroto, Nakasongola, and may gain city status (<https://www.independent.co.ug/parliament-approves-15-new-cities-for-uganda/>).

As this was happening, the National Commission for UNESCO had to plan to make a contribution to make the developments successful.

UNESCO has programmes and several Platforms for cities that give the organization a more strategic, comprehensive vision through coordinated efforts in its areas of action to help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Cities are considered as laboratories of creative and innovative solutions that help in dealing with the global challenges of our time. Similarly, the Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) has an arrangement for cities dating from Since 2017.

In February 2019, Uganda National Commission for UNESCO convened a workshop targeting elected leaders, administrators and planners of the then prospective candidate cities. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce these UNESCO programmes for cities to those municipalities as they prepared to become cities. The specific objectives included taking stock of the urbanization challenges faced by the targeted Municipalities and assessing their key needs towards fulfilling the requirements for membership in the UNESCO Cities, International Coalitions and Alliances. In the said workshop, the participants made a number of recommendations including a request to



UNATCOM/UNESCO to hold periodic engagements, at least twice a year with the municipal planners to create awareness of what opportunities exist, provide technical capacity building and general support for physical planners and human resource capacity in urban authorities to achieve healthy, resilient and sustainable Urban environments free from all forms of discrimination where the residents can live together sustainably.

## **About UNESCO and UNATCOM**

### **UNESCO**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations founded in 1945 soon after the WW II. Its Constitution launched in 1946. UNESCO contributes to the construction of peace, human development, and intercultural dialogue in an era of globalization through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

UNESCO's Constitution states that Peace must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind. Tension and conflicts in today's globalized world can only find lasting solutions if ignorance is countered with intellectual cooperation, scientific research, social transformation, intercultural dialogue, access to information and independent and pluralistic media.

*"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of peace must be constructed"*

In relation to its programmes, UNESCO has Four (4) fields of competence: Education, Science, Culture and Communication & Information and Five (5) Programs: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information

### **UNESCO core functions**

1. Laboratory of ideas and foresight: *State of art information plan research*
2. Standard setter: *Generate international agreements, conventions, declaration and recommendations.*
3. Clearing house: *Gather, share, transfer information*
4. Capacity-building: *human/institutional capacity building and training*
5. Catalyst of International cooperation: *Brings together specialists, networking.*

To carry out its mission, UNESCO has; a Secretariat at Headquarters in Paris, France; a global network of field offices, cluster and national offices and institutes; a network of 199 (2020) National Commissions and 11 Associate Members for UNESCO supporting and promoting the Organization's activities at national level in 193 Member States

## **National Commissions for UNESCO (NATCOMS)**

Established in accordance with Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution in Member States. The Constitution provides that each Member State establishes an Agency for Cooperation called "*A National Commission for UNESCO or an equivalent body* in accordance with its own conditions". The Charter of National Commissions provides guidance on the role and operation of National Commissions as well as obligations of Member States and UNESCO to NATCOMS.

## **Core Functions of NATCOMS**

The Charter of NATCOMS specifies four actions. These include; **Consultation:** Program formulation and expert advice to Member States (Govt, MDAs, NGOs, CSOs, Individuals, **Liaison:** Between UNESCO and national entities: Permanent Delegation, other NATCOMS, UN Agencies, **Information:** Disseminate information on UNESCO activities and programs, collect and disseminate data and statistics, publications and documents in UNESCO's fields and **Program formulation, implementation and evaluation:** Involve intellectual/scientific communities in the planning, implementing and monitoring programs and national priority setting

## **Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM)**

This was formed in 1963. Since its formation UNATCOM has been operating as a quasi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Education and Sports. UNATCOM became a body corporate in 2014 under the UNATCOM Act. UNATCOM operates with support of a Board, Programme and Specialized Committees of volunteers.

With a Vision of "A learning, cultured, informed and peaceful nation" and a mandate "To contribute to the attainment of peace, justice, respect for human rights, freedom and security in Uganda by promoting: education, science, culture, communication and Information", the mission of UNATCOM is "to provide intellectual leadership to influence policy and action in education, science, culture and communication for peace and sustainable development in Uganda"

UNATCOM works with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Ministries are: Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry

of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information, Communication, Technology & Guidance, Office of Prime Minister-Disaster Preparedness, Peace & Refugees, Office of President/Directorate of Ethics. The Agencies include: National Curriculum Development Centre, National Council for Higher Education, the Academia, Research Institutes, National Council for Science & Technology, Uganda Industrial Research Institute, The Atomic Council, Geological Mines and Surveys Department, National Environment Management Authority, National Forestry Authority, Uganda National Meteorological Authority, Climate Change Unit, Uganda Museum, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda National Cultural Centre. Other critical stakeholders include Cultural & Religious Institutions

**Funding of UNATCOM;** The UNESCO Constitution provides that each Member State defines the legal status and funding of its National Commission. UNATCOM gets subvention from government to cover operational costs and projects. Specific projects and activities are funded through UNESCO Participation Programmes and Regular Budget and extra-budget sources. Collaboration with other partners.

UNATCOM invites all persons to get involved in its activities. This can be done through; having interest in UNESCO fields of competence, consulting UNATCOM for guidance and information, forming/joining UNESCO Clubs, Centers or Associations, Academic Chairs, contacting one of the Associated Schools in your locality, applying for Internships and Fellowships and proposing projects for Participation Programme, Regular Programme or Extra-budgetary

## **GUIDELINES ON THE UNESCO PROGRAMMES AND NETWORKS FOR CITIES.**

### **Network 1: The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)**

The **UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)** is an international policy-oriented **network** comprised of **cities** committed to implement lifelong **learning** for all. The network provides inspiration, know-how and best practice. UNESCO GNLC members benefit from sharing of lifelong learning policies and practices, production and exchange of knowledge on key challenges and solutions, capacity building and training initiatives, and participation in global events such as the International Conference on Learning Cities.

Based on the UNESCO GNLC strategy for 2019–2021, the 170+ members of the network focus their joint activities on seven key clusters: education for sustainable development; equity and inclusion; educational planning, monitoring and evaluation; education for global citizenship; entrepreneurship; health and well-being; and literacy.

#### **What is a learning city?**

A learning city:

- effectively mobilizes resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning, from basic to higher education,
- revitalizes learning in families and communities,
- facilitates learning for and in the workplace,
- extends the use of modern learning technologies,
- enhances quality and excellence in learning,
- fosters a culture of learning throughout life.

In doing so, the city enhances individual empowerment and social inclusion, economic and cultural development, as well as sustainable development.

#### **How to join Membership**

There are annual calls for submission of applications. Cities can submit their applications usually from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> June to the UNESCO National Commission in the country for endorsement and submission to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

In order to join the network, the city or municipality should pursue the vision of providing lifelong learning and becoming a learning city. The strategies set out in the key documents, the Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities and the Key Features of Learning Cities, must be adopted by the mayor of the city, who needs to endorse the membership application. The city needs to complete the membership application form and submit it to the National Commission for UNESCO for endorsement. In addition to this, members are required to submit a progress report on their learning city project every two years to the UNESCO GNLC Coordination Team. This is a requirement to renew membership.

## How to apply?

The city government can apply by following these steps:

- Step 1:** Consult the [UNESCO GNLC membership regulations](https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/Membership/gnlc-membership_concept_note_ext_en.pdf) ([https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/Membership/gnlc-membership\\_concept\\_note\\_ext\\_en.pdf](https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/Membership/gnlc-membership_concept_note_ext_en.pdf)) and share them with relevant stakeholders in the city.
- Step 2:** Commit to implementing the [Guiding Documents of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities](#).
- Step 3:** Complete the [membership application form](http://uil.unesco.org/learning-cities) (<http://uil.unesco.org/learning-cities>) and seek formal endorsement by the mayor of the city.
- Step 4:** Email the application form to the National Commission for UNESCO in spring 2021 for endorsement, copying in the UNESCO GNLC coordination team ([learningcities@unesco.org](mailto:learningcities@unesco.org)).

The National Commission for UNESCO has one month to take a decision and will forward the application to the coordination team and send a copy to you.

## Benefits of membership

1. Empowering individuals and promoting social cohesion
2. Enhancing economic development and cultural prosperity
3. Promoting sustainable development
4. Promoting inclusive learning in the education system All citizens, regardless of ability, gender and sexuality, social background, language, ethnicity, religion or culture should have equal access to learning opportunities.
5. Revitalizing learning in families and communities Lifelong learning is not confined to educational or business settings. It infuses the entire life of a city. In most societies, the family is an especially important setting for learning. Learning in families and local communities builds social capital and improves the quality of life.
6. Facilitating learning for and in the workplace
7. Extending the use of modern learning technologies
8. Enhancing quality in learning
9. Fostering a culture of learning throughout life
10. Strengthening political will and commitment
11. Improving governance and participation of all stakeholders
12. Boosting resource mobilization and utilization

## **For More information**

[Application procedure and form](#)

[About the UNESCO Global Network of Learning cities](#)

[Current members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning cities](#)

## **Contact**

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

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## **Network 2: The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWaC)**

The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWaC) aims to provide an international cooperation forum for dialogue on water to help megacities adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. It will involve all stakeholders in the water sector, national and local governance leaders, civil society representatives, researchers, urban planners, decision makers, utility operators and service providers, providing a forum in which they can learn from each other's experience, exchange best practices, collaborate with technical, academic and financial institutions, and design and implement individual responses to the challenges of climate change and urban growth.

This diversity of intellectual, technical and financial resources components that exist within megacities is an opportunity for mobilizing these resources so that innovative solutions can emerge and guarantee access to water and sanitation for all populations, equality of services, economic viability, resilience of systems, flexibility of solutions, and the protection of the natural environment.

## **Objectives of be joining Membership**

- To share good practices and exchange experience in operational, organizational, environmental, economic and cultural areas related to water.

- To support the design of technical tools and models of urban water governance, and to develop innovative measures to adapt to climate change.
- To benefit from state-of-the art research and strategies to support sustainable public policies.
- To develop common projects between megacities and develop partnerships with operators, academia and financial institutions.
- To assess and compare the megacities' progress in adapting to climate change within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To identify financing mechanisms to support the adaptation of megacities to the impacts of climate change on water in urban areas.

## Contact

E-mail: [a.makarigakis@unesco.org](mailto:a.makarigakis@unesco.org)(link sends e-mail)

**UNESCO**

*International*

*Hydrological*

*Programme*

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Fontenoy

F-75352 Paris 07 SP – France

### **Network 3: Inclusive and Sustainable Cities: The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR,**

The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, was launched by UNESCO in March 2004 following the call made for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

Since its inception, and its revitalization in 2014, ICCAR has grown to become an active global front against racism and discriminations with over 500 members across the globe. ICCAR has become a reference as a unique city-level platform in the UN system and in the international community that undertakes a wide range of initiatives – ranging from policymaking, capacity-building to awareness-raising activities. It advocates for global solidarity and collaboration to promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination.

Building on the adoption of the New Urban Agenda during Habitat III, ICCAR has established a common voice for cities striving to fight against societal ills that result from social transformations including rapid urbanization, human mobility, and rising inequalities.

ICCAR is composed of seven regional and national Coalitions. Each Coalition responds to specific priorities and challenges set out in a Ten-Point Plan of Action.

The Ten-Point Plan of Action is composed of ten commitments covering various areas of competence of city authorities such as education, housing, employment, and cultural activities. It proposes examples of practical policies for city authorities to enhance or

develop. Signatory cities undertake to integrate this Plan of Action in their municipal strategies and policies and to involve various actors of civil society in its implementation.

ICCAR is part of the [UNESCO Cities Platform](#) launched by UNESCO on the occasion of [World Cities Day](#) on 31 October 2019. By means of this new platform, UNESCO proposes a more strategic and comprehensive vision on its interaction with cities through coordinated action including all its areas of action.

## 1. Cities, Migrants and Gender

Cities today are home to more than half of humanity (over 54%) and continue to attract people who seek to improve their life conditions. The coexistence of an increasing part of the world's population in urban settings engenders multiple challenges. Another set of challenges are related to the tensions generated by diversity in its different forms and manifestations. Migrants, whether international or internal, and refugees follow the global urbanization trends and seek residence in cities, thus rendering urban spaces even more multi-ethnic and multicultural.

In general, women migrate as much as men: in 2015, almost half (48%) of all international migrants were female. Regarding forced displacement, in 2015 the number of refugees worldwide rose to 21.3 million – the highest level since the Second World War.

Migration implies trade-offs for women and girls, in that it can offer new opportunities but can also expose female migrants and refugees to new or increased risks.

In the face of these realities, a people-centred approach, underpinned by human rights, is greatly needed to achieve inclusive and sustainable cities.

Cities and their authorities have a key role to play in implementing holistic and effective responses that promote inclusive and sustainable development.

## 2. Regional perspectives

To promote the inclusion of migrants and refugees, UNESCO undertakes the following:

a) advocates for the empowerment of city-level actors to address challenges relating to migrants and refugees by increased national and regional collaboration, the exchange of good practices and the collection and analysis of relevant and reliable data and guidelines.

b) improves public perceptions of migrants and refugees by sensitizing media professionals and outlets; focusing on the importance of providing accurate and responsible information when reporting on migrants and refugees, fighting common beliefs and perceptions of refugees; and mobilizing the media to launch campaigns that focus on the human rights and positive impacts of refugees.

c) raises awareness - through public campaigns to advance respect for diversity and mutual understanding, relying particularly on the persuasive potential of communications using arts and creativity, mobilizing various networks.



### 3. Policy brief

UNESCO is keen in building the capacities of local policy-makers and concerned city stakeholders in the region to integrate human rights and gender equality considerations in policies and actions building on the evidence informed policy dialogue.

The call is launched to inviting researchers, team and centers to share a proposal to produce a policy brief based on recent conference and workshop which provided substantive discussions on the gender equality and migration issues in the Arab region.

Interested applicants (both institutions and researchers) are expected to submit a proposal early **November** to Ms Carol Donabedian ([cj.donabedian@unesco.org](mailto:cj.donabedian@unesco.org)([link sends e-mail](#))).

#### ICCAR Global Steering Committee

The [ICCAR](#) Global Steering Committee (GSC) was established in April 2016, following its first meeting organized by UNESCO and hosted by the Comune di Bologna, Italy, lead city of the [European Coalition of Cities against Racism \(ECCAR\)](#).

Composed of representatives of lead cities of the [seven regional and national coalitions of ICCAR](#), the Committee aims to

- reinforce international leadership and coordination of the Coalition;
- support alignment of regional/national and city-level strategies and priorities with emerging development agendas, in response to contemporary opportunities and challenges;
- facilitate collaborative action and advocacy between regional/national Coalitions through shared initiatives, and exchange of expertise and resources; and,
- raise the profile and visibility of the [International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR](#).

The Global Steering Committee adopted the "[Bologna Declaration](#)", which highlights the centrality of inclusion and diversity in urban spaces as crucial in achieving sustainable urban development. To attest to the dynamic character of ICCAR, the Declaration also recognizes the need to reassess its role and mandate to align itself with current and emerging challenges and new global agendas of the international community, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Habitat III's [New Urban Agenda](#).

Within the framework of the City's celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Global Steering Committee of ICCAR adopted the "[Nancy Declaration](#)" in December 2018. It calls for renewed commitment to "develop effective responses to the rise of hate, bigotry and violent extremism, growing worldwide phenomena that accentuate racism, intolerance and discrimination, by implementing local and collective advocacy efforts to raise awareness, developing

guidelines and tools in response to these threats, and conducting capacity-building and education-related initiatives".

## **UNESCO PROGRAMME FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE**

Urban populations are vulnerable to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods or extreme weather events. Planning is required to ensure they do not become disasters. UNESCO's Disaster Risk Reduction programme harnesses science, technology and innovation, as well as traditional knowledge, to mitigate risks. It also works with city authorities to develop strategies to protect critical infrastructure such as schools and UNESCO-designated sites.

UNESCO-designated sites include cultural and natural World Heritage sites, geoparks and biosphere reserves, as well as sites protecting documents that appear on the UNESCO MAP.

UNESCO is engaged in the conceptual shift in thinking away from post-disaster reaction and towards pre-disaster action. Working alone or in collaboration with other UN Agencies and/or other scientific entities, UNESCO has been a catalyst for international, inter-disciplinary cooperation in many aspects of disaster risk reduction and mitigation. By operating at the interface between natural and social sciences, education, culture and communication, UNESCO plays a vital role in constructing a global culture of resilient communities in a trans-and cross-disciplinary manner.

UNESCO assists countries to build their capacities in managing disaster and climate risk. It supports their efforts in preventing, mitigating the effect of and coping with disasters. This is achieved by using education and raising awareness in a culturally sensitive manner and focusing efforts on UNESCO designated and affiliated sites (such as World Heritage Sites, educational facilities, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks). UNESCO assists Member States to further strengthen their scientific and technological capacity in identifying, monitoring and dealing with hazards as well as preparing for them via Early Warning Systems. The work of the Organization is being developed and implemented through its different Sectors, Field Offices, Designated and Affiliated Sites, Category I and II Centers, UNESCO Chairs and Networks, according to the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/special-themes/disaster-risk-reduction/#:~:text=UNESCO%20assists%20countries%20to%20build,managing%20disaster%20and%20climate%20risk.&text=UNESCO%20assists%20Member%20States%20to,them%20via%20Early%20Warning%20Systems) and its four Priorities of Action (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/special-themes/disaster-risk-reduction/#:~:text=UNESCO%20assists%20countries%20to%20build,managing%20disaster%20and%20climate%20risk.&text=UNESCO%20assists%20Member%20States%20to,them%20via%20Early%20Warning%20Systems>).

## **Network 4. HERITAGE CITIES PROGRAMME**

The World Heritage Cities Programme aims to assist States Parties in the challenges of protecting and managing their urban heritage. The Programme is structured along a two-way process, with 1) the development of a theoretical framework for urban heritage conservation, and 2) the provision of technical assistance to States Parties for the implementation of new approaches and schemes. More than 315 World Heritage

cities function as inhabited urban centres worldwide, facing difficulties in balancing heritage conservation and urban development.

Concerned by the multitude of World Heritage Cities facing difficulties in reconciling conservation and development, the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in Durban, South Africa (July 2005) requested the development of a new standard-setting instrument to provide updated guidelines to better integrate urban heritage conservation into strategies of socio-economic development.

As part of this policy process that lasted 6 years UNESCO set up the **Historic Urban Landscape initiative**, an international working group comprising [ICOMOS](#), [IUCN](#) and [ICCROM](#) (as Advisory Bodies to the 1972 World Heritage Convention) and other partner organizations, including UIA ([International Union of Architects](#)), IFLA ([International Federation of Landscape Architects](#)), IFHP ([International Federation for Housing and Planning](#)), OWHC ([Organization of World Heritage Cities](#)), the [Aga Khan Trust for Culture](#), IAIA ([International Association of Impact Assessment](#)), the [World Bank](#), UN-Habitat, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), IDB ([Inter-American Development Bank](#)), ISOCaRP (International Society of City and Regional Planners), the J. Paul Getty Foundation and WMF (World Monuments Fund), as well as individual experts from different geo-cultural regions and professional backgrounds.

On 10 November 2011 UNESCO's General Conference adopted the new Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape by acclamation, the first such instrument on the historic environment issued by UNESCO in 35 years. The Recommendation does not replace existing doctrines or conservation approaches; rather, it is an additional tool to integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment into the wider goals of urban development in respect of the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts. The UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape provides guidelines for urban planning that respects humanity's rich urban heritage. The World Heritage Cities Programme promotes practical solutions and tools to meet the needs of local communities.

In order to facilitate implementation, the UNESCO General Conference recommended that Member States take the appropriate steps to:

- adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts;
- disseminate it widely across their national territories;
- facilitate implementation through formulation and adoption of supporting policies; and to
- monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities.

It further recommended that Member States and relevant local authorities identify within their specific contexts the critical steps to implement the Historic Urban Landscape approach, which may include the following:

- To undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of the city's natural, cultural and human resources;
- To reach consensus using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on what values to protect for transmission to future generations and to determine the attributes that carry these values;
- To assess vulnerability of these attributes to socio-economic stresses and impacts of climate change;
- To integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development, which shall provide indications of areas of heritage sensitivity that require careful attention to planning, design and implementation of development projects;
- To prioritize actions for conservation and development;
- To establish the appropriate partnerships and local management frameworks for each of the identified projects for conservation and development, as well as to develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors, both public and private.

The World Heritage Cities Programme is a thematic Programme intended to support the conservation and management of similar heritage properties. The list hereunder is for the purposes of the Programme and does not affect whatsoever the specific decision by the Committee on the inscription of the properties and their SOUV (whether inscribed as city, urban ensemble, single building, cultural landscape or mixed site). The properties included in the World Heritage Cities Programme are those included on the basis of the following criteria:

- World Heritage properties that are a large/significant/representative part of the city (centre, port, quarter, etc.) as well as those that included almost the entire city or town as their nominated area;
- World Heritage properties that are living functioning settlements in the contemporary context where heritage structures are intertwined with the life of the city. This may include urban ensembles or groups of historic buildings that are set in and around urban open spaces, streets, markets or residential quarters as part of the property;
- Cities that have World Heritage cultural landscapes within them.

#### **Network 5. MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY (MIL) CITIES: [An Initiative on Creative Learning of Media and Information Literacy in Cities](#)**

The initiative "Media and Information Literate Cities" (MIL Cities) was conceived on the occasion of [Global Media and Information Literacy \(MIL\) Week 2018](#), which was celebrated under the theme "MIL Cities: Voices, Power, and Change Makers". The Global Framework for MIL Cities was deliberated then adopted by over 300 participants at the Global MIL Week 2018 Feature Conference in Kaunas, Lithuania. Dialogue about becoming a "MIL City" is being initiated with a number of cities.

The "MIL Cities" initiative places its focus on citizens. The main objective of the "MIL Cities" initiative is to set cities on a path to innovatively empower more citizens with MIL competencies while connecting with other cities across the world. Media and

information literate citizens are able to understand the role and functions of media and other information providers, and possess basic knowledge and skills to critically and efficiently analyze and use media and information for self-expression, to become independent learners and critical thinkers, and to fully participate in and benefit from today's growing knowledge and information society. "MIL Cities" can thus contribute to increasing access to information, stimulating civic engagement, enabling intercultural and interreligious dialogue, countering disinformation and hate, and creating economic, social and cultural opportunities.

Participating cities will be supported with the tools, resources, and guidance needed to diffuse MIL to their citizens as they use city services and participate in local development. The "MIL Cities" initiative is designed to build bridges between various city actors, notably local government authorities, city libraries, museums, archives, public transport operators, healthcare facilities, formal, non-formal and informal educational institutions, urban development agencies, and MIL-related NGOs and networks. Its implementation will hence adopt a multi-stakeholder approach. The "MIL Cities" initiative also aims to integrate MIL into municipal policies and strategies.

New technologies have led to new information flows and media platforms. Cities are reaping the benefits of big data. Not all citizens have the media and information literacy knowledge, skills, and attitude to critically engage with information, media, and technology in their lives. MIL Cities enable city actors to creatively use MIL as a tool to address hate speech, disinformation, privacy, and to foster freedom of expression, access to information and dialogue.

**Examples of the types of activities in which local government and other city actors can engage include:**

### **1. General Examples**

All local governments and partnering city actors can:

- become official partners of the annual Global MIL Week celebration led by UNESCO based on negotiations and mutual agreements;
- participate in local, regional and international MIL-related events including the annual Global MIL Week Feature Conference and Youth Agenda Forum;
- share the UNESCO MIL CLICKS social media posts related to MIL Cities with their networks (please see more information on MIL CLICKS on the website: <https://en.unesco.org/milclicks>);

### **2. Local Authorities and Libraries**

- partnerships can be fostered to stimulate MIL through libraries, including actions undertaken by local and regional libraries, those libraries within school environments, and informal community libraries. Examples include a series of workshops offered by a library on MIL-related topics, a section of the library devoted to books on MIL-related topics, film screenings at the library with a facilitated discussion about a MIL topic, etc.;

- organize a library day in schools where librarians or writers explain how information is produced, the usefulness of libraries, issues related to MIL, such as functions of media, online privacy, and/or intercultural dialogue;
- set up a media corner in libraries where citizens can access news and information with guided assistance from the librarians. The media corners offer local citizens access to a wide array of media including online media;
- motivate the relevant city actors to organize local events in celebration of Global MIL Week in the city, and register these on the Global MIL Week official website;

### **3. Transportation Industry**

- set up self-serving MIL information booths in train or bus stations or boxes in buses;
- display MIL-related educational posters/learning content, that could be provided by UNESCO or originally developed, in different types of stations;
- display a MIL City map poster (to be requested from UNESCO) in commuter hubs;

### **4. Mayors' Networks**

- integrate MIL aspects into city policies;
- initiate a MIL City vision; encouraging and assisting the promotion of MIL-related content in city public facilities, such as city transportation system, billboards, city landmarks, to raise awareness among citizens;
- disseminate the MIL CLICKS social media innovation to network members (please see more information about MIL CLICKS on the website: <https://en.unesco.org/milclicks>);
- support and partner with MIL stakeholders and other municipalities or local government authorities to set up and monitor national MIL networks to build synergies and to cooperate with Regional Chapters of the UNESCO-led Global Alliance for Partnerships on MIL (GAPMIL);

### **5. Election Commissions, Authorities, or Associations**

- integrate MIL aspects into election education programmes in order to support the goal of free and fair polls;
- issue and distribute newsletters or feature articles on MIL to raise awareness among members;
- disseminate the UNESCO MIL CLICKS social media innovation to your networks (please see more information on MIL CLICKS on the website: <https://en.unesco.org/milclicks>);

### **6. Health System**

- promote campaigns focused on MIL as a tool to understand and resist misinformation about vaccinations and other health issues;

- promote health information and MIL through coordinated programmes in health centres, schools and community groups;
- use media available spaces and coordinate activities with schools to teach how to choose the right sources about nutrition and health in media etc.;

### **7.Museums/Archives**

- promote MIL activities mixed with your regular activities;
- create thematic days to teach how to find and deal with information and media content about a specific subject or theme;
- draw on local history to demonstrate how narratives, information and media content have been constructed in the past. Use exhibitions and programming to show how different narratives can exist and have existed;

### **8.Entertainment Industry**

- organize MIL workshops in a form of a play for students at local theaters;
- include MIL themed films into local film festivals program and organizing discussions after the screening;
- invite various creative industry associations for monthly MIL brunch;
- establish a "school/lab" for MIL agents – MIL researchers, practitioner who have ideas how to promote MIL culture;
- use edutainment tools to increase people's awareness about MIL;
- work with schools to publish and broadcast kids and student issues;
- create and broadcast campaigns to help citizens to deal with misinformation and disinformation;
- explore MIL themes through productions and programming;
- invest in work through schools and libraries to build awareness, and empower people of all ages to create their own works and productions in order to understand how information and media are made;
- organize MIL Summer Schools with awards for participants' best media production;

### **9.Schools**

- organize a class field trip to local media outlets or libraries and discuss with the editors, journalists, librarians, and technical staff how information or news is created;
- invite information, media and technology professionals to the school for discussion in a classroom or general assembly;

- screen a movie related to media and information;
- engage students in critical thinking and discussion about the information, metaphors and hidden messages;
- conduct school outreach to city councils to promote MIL in public spaces;
- contact local governments and raise their awareness of the importance of MIL for citizens;
- integrate MIL skills into multidisciplinary projects or activities in the formal curriculum;

## **10. Media Industry**

- produce special supplements related to MIL to existing programming;
- air MIL learning announcements as public service announcements on radio and television;
- host MIL practitioners and experts from your community in the programme (news stories, interviews, etc.);
- engage with children and youth from the local community and invite local schools to visit the newsroom;
- organize media day in schools where journalists, editors or media experts explain how news is produced, the dangers of the profession, etc.;
- organize webinars/online Q&A on MIL to highlight new ways in which media can promote MIL in city and community spaces;
- provide small grants for joint projects developed by regional media, local youth and other interested local stakeholders;
- organise media tours for youth led by well-known journalists, bloggers and activists on local, national and international social issues;

## **11. Social Media Companies and other Technological Intermediaries**

- generate a specific emoji for the annual Global MIL Week and MIL in general for promoting the concept of MIL on these platforms;
- present Global MIL Week on your official platform and support the Global MIL Week MIL CLICKS Live Q&A;
- invite a celebrity/social media influencer/MIL expert to do a live interview about MIL on their platforms;



- offer advertising grants to MIL partners of UNESCO and non-profit organizations around the world who are involved in MIL work and performing local actions to promote the celebration of UNESCO's annual Global MIL Week;
- boost or amplify MIL-related content on social media including the social media innovation MIL CLICKS (please see more information on MIL CLICKS on the website: <https://en.unesco.org/milclicks>);
- develop and promote digital MIL games online and offline.

### **Process to elaborate and adopt this MIL Cities framework**

A consultative and inclusive process is required.

### **How to become a member?**

**Cities interested to become a MIL City**, should read the MIL Cities Framework and contact [a.grizzle@unesco.org](mailto:a.grizzle@unesco.org) (link sends e-mail) for clarification and guidance.

## **Network 6. THE UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES PROGRAMME**

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 with the aim of making creativity an essential driver for sustainable urban renewal and development. By end of 2019, the Network comprised 246 cities, 66 designated in 2019 alone from over 70 countries spread in all the continents, working together towards common objectives: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of development plans at the local level, and actively cooperating through inter-city partnerships at the international level. To foster partnerships and synergy, the UCCN cities are designated in one of the seven creative fields covered by the Network: Crafts & Folk Art / Design / Film / Gastronomy / Literature / Music / Media Arts.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network represents an immense potential to assert the role of culture as enabler of sustainable development. Urban areas are, by definition, the principal breeding grounds for the emergence and development of cultural and creative industries. By strengthening the value chain of local creative economies, the Network believes that cities can support, enrich, learn from each other and work together for the sustainable urban development of all. Above all, the Creative Cities join forces to make creativity a driver and an enabler for sustainable urban development. By increasing their cultural offerings and supporting job creation, the Network fosters vibrant cultural sectors based on social diversity and cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and citizens' well-being. As a laboratory, the Network reinforces cooperation with and among Creative Cities. It offers unparalleled opportunities for cities, through peer-learning processes and collaborative projects, to fully capitalize on

their creative assets. By working together, public authorities, the private sector and civil society support creation and creators, as well as civic and cultural participation.

The UCCN is one of UNESCO's key partners in implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The cities in the UNESCO Creative Cities Programme have put culture and creativity at the heart of their sustainable urban development policies. Covering the fields of crafts and folk art, design, film, gastronomy, literature, music and media arts, Creative Cities share their innovative resources, knowledge and practices towards building more sustainable and better cities for all.

## **HOW ARE CITIES SELECTED?**

There is a biennial call for Applications open to all cities of UNESCO's Member States and Associate Members. A city may be designated as a UNESCO Creative City based on the contents, impact and outreach of its proposed action plan and its potential contribution to the Network's overall vision and objectives, as well as its commitment to UNESCO's mandate and the Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Director-General of UNESCO is responsible for the designation of the cities in conformity with the procedure set out below, following internal technical pre-screening and an external evaluation with:

- (i) UNESCO-designated independent experts specialized in the seven creative fields covered by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and other cultural and creative sectors, and/or in urban development; <https://en.unesco.org/countries> APPLICATION GUIDE 3
- (ii) The member cities that are representative of the seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. The UNESCO designation indicates recognition of the quality, relevance and feasibility of the strategy and proposed action plan outlined in the application to implement the objectives of the Network, as set out in its Mission Statement. Cities that are members recognize the importance of sustainable and inclusive urban development, and therefore commit to enhancing the role of culture and creativity for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Applications shall focus primarily on the chosen creative field among the seven creative fields covered by the Network (as per (ii) above).

Applicants are also encouraged to address other creative fields covered by the Network, highlighting existing and/or potential synergies between them.\

UNESCO reserves itself the right to restrict the Call for Applications, taking into account specific geographical or thematic priorities, and may limit the maximum number of

designations. As of the 2019 Call, a maximum of two applications from the same country, and in two different creative fields, were eligible for the designation. Moreover, applications from under-represented regions within the Network, particularly those from developing countries, were encouraged in order to enhance geographical balance. Cities that have submitted an application to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as part of two consecutive calls and do not receive designation, shall respect a moratorium of 4 years before presenting a new application. Candidate cities must commit to the implementation of all the objectives laid out in the Network's Mission Statement, as well as respond to the criteria set out below, which will be used to guide the evaluation process:

(1) Motivation for the application and the primary development opportunities and challenges to be met (Sections 6 and 8 of the Application Form):

– Demonstrated commitment of the candidate city to helping achieve the objectives of the Network, at both the local and the international level; – Coherence of the objectives and priorities of the candidate city with the objectives and fields of action of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network; – Expected mid- and long-term impacts of the designation on the sustainable development of the city.

(2) Regions targeted are defined by UNESCO

**The Process for preparing the application** (Section 9 of the Application Form):

– Demonstrated involvement of the Municipality in the design and preparation of the application and in the implementation of the proposed strategy and action plan; – Association of public, private and civil society operators on a common project supported by the city; – Participation of the local creative sector concerned (creators, professional organizations, cultural enterprises, etc.) in the design and preparation of the application.

Existence, at the time of application, of a development strategy or actions and initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of creativity in the socio-economic development of the city and in urban renewal;

– Historical importance and role of the creative field concerned for the candidate city as well as within its contemporary economic and social context;

– Potential contribution of the cultural and creative assets of the candidate city, particularly in the creative field concerned, towards achieving the Network's objectives;

– Expertise of the city in organizing local, national and/or international fairs, conferences, exhibitions and other activities aimed at professionals as well as the general public;

- Quality, diversity and impact of mechanisms set up to promote creativity, arts' education, professional training, capacity building and research in the creative field concerned;
- Existence and/or development of cultural facilities and infrastructures aimed at professionals and the general public dedicated to the practice, production, promotion and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services in the creative field concerned, including existing active institutions in the creative field concerned;
- Quality, relevance and impact of programmes to foster greater participation in cultural life, especially aimed at disadvantaged or vulnerable sectors of society;
- Capacity to involve the main professional organizations and non-governmental organizations representing civil society in realizing the proposed plan of action;
- Scope, quality and diversity of the international cooperation initiatives developed by the city in the creative field concerned; - Quality, impact and innovative nature of the policies and measures implemented to support the creation and growth of dynamic local cultural industries in the creative field concerned;
- Experience in local and international development of cross-cutting projects establishing synergies between the creative field concerned and other creative fields covered by the Network.

**Contributions to achieving the objectives of the Network (Section 11 of the Application Form):**

- Making use of and fostering the principal cultural and creative assets of the city in the proposed plan of action;
- Relevance, coherence and feasibility of the proposed action plan in terms of achieving the objectives of the Network at local and international level;

**Scope, quality, diversity and innovative approach of the initiatives proposed in the action plan for achieving the objectives of the Network at both local and international levels;**

- Inclusion of cooperation initiatives involving cities in developing countries;
- Capacity to create synergies between the creative field concerned and other creative fields;
- Adequacy of the funding strategy and proposed budget;
- Establishment of a structure to manage and execute the action plan involving stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society;
- Quality and relevance of the communication and awareness plan regarding the Network and the impact of the proposed action plan, aimed at attracting the interest of a wide public.

The designated cities will be subjected to submitting of the quadrennial Membership Monitoring Report as of their designation in order to ensure their commitment and active contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as well as to promote the exchange of information and best practice between members.

## **II. HOW TO APPLY?**

To become a member of the UCCN, candidate cities must submit an application that clearly demonstrates their commitment and capacity to contribute to the objectives of the Network through the implementation of the city's action plan proposed in the call for application.

These Guidelines are intended to assist candidate cities in compiling the Application Form.

Each application shall include, among other required documents, an official letter of intention signed by the Mayor of the city, as well as an official letter of support by the National Commission for UNESCO concerned.

In order to streamline the designation procedure, a limitation on the total number of candidate cities per country endorsed by the National Commission concerned is usually set up.

### **KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER DURING THE PREPARATION OF AN APPLICATION**

In the preparation of an application to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, it is highly advised to carefully consider the following factors:

♣ **Participatory process:** The preparation and formulation of the application must be led by the municipality and should result from a participative process involving relevant stakeholders and partners of the public and private sectors as well as civil society, including youth.

♣ **Forward-looking approach:** The cultural heritage and current creative assets of the candidate city should be the pillars to build a consistent and progressive action plan, which contributes to the sustainable urban development of the city in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 sustainable development goals. The UCCN revolves primarily around a strategic approach and demonstrative projects.

♣ **Inclusive sustainable development:** UNESCO's Creative Cities foster sustainable urban development building on culture and creativity as a lever to achieve development goals. In this context, when applying and formulating their programme of activities, cities have to demonstrate their engagement in bringing forward the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the city level, building on an inclusive approach to development encompassing the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

♣ **Long-term commitment:** Cities considering submitting an application must be aware that a designation as UNESCO Creative City implies a continuous and active commitment towards UNESCO's values and mandate, as well as the implementation of the UCCN's objectives. In particular, candidate cities must be committed to preparing and consistently implementing an action plan, regularly reporting on their achievements through the quadrennial Membership Monitoring Report and participating in the UCCN Annual Conferences.

♣ **Sustainable action plan, capacities and resources:** The application should include a proposed strategy for the city, accompanied by an action plan setting out specific projects and initiatives at the local and international level implemented in the four years following the possible designation. The action plan should provide an indication of priorities, capacities and resources (both financial and human). The outcome and impact of the proposed initiatives and projects will be subject to an evaluation through the aforementioned monitoring and reporting process.

♣ **Exchanges and cooperation:** Exchanges between and across member cities are critical to the development, strengthening and credibility of the international Network and are one of its cornerstones. It is therefore important for candidate cities to demonstrate both their commitment and capacities to develop activities and collaborative initiatives at the regional and international levels with UNESCO and the members of the Network.

## PREPARING THE APPLICATION

**Who should be involved in the application process?** The city should first create a management/coordination team within the municipality or a specific department, centre or entity in charge of developing the application's contents and designate a focal point who will act as the liaison person with UNESCO. This team will be ultimately responsible for drafting the application and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of activities related to the Network, along with a representative of the municipality, in case of designation. Although the application must be led by local public authorities, it should also reflect wide stakeholder consultation and support across the city and genuinely speak on behalf of public, private sectors and civil society of the city. It is therefore important to elaborate the application in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and actors such as creators, professionals from the cultural and creative industries, universities and academia, youth leagues, nongovernmental organizations and associations, as well as different relevant public authorities or departments in the areas of culture, social affairs, economic development, urban infrastructure, communication, planning, etc.

Once relevant stakeholders have been identified, it is strongly advised to establish a consultative group that will support the management team/focal point in the preparation of the application. Such a consultative group can be made up of a diverse range of stakeholders and actors, including high-level representatives from the

municipal government, representatives from civil society, cultural practitioners and producers, key actors of the creative sector, representatives from the education sector, and other related professional associations and organizations.

## **Sequence for preparing an application**

### **Submission of application**

This should be with all required documents by submission deadline. It follows the steps outlined below:

1. Municipality (Mayor) decides to prepare application
2. Establish a management team and focal point
3. Identify relevant stakeholders – within the city and at regional and international level
4. Establish a consultative group involving relevant stakeholders from all sectors
5. Implement relevant background research and prepare mapping of creative assets of city
6. Draft a mid-term (4-year) strategy and action plan implementing Network's objectives at local and international levels
7. Plan a management unit in case of designation
8. Propose an adequate budget and explore funding opportunities
9. Mayor writes a formal letter presenting application
10. Obtain formal support from national professional associations
11. Obtain formal endorsement from National Commission for UNESCO
12. Submit application with all required documents by submission deadline

When adapting this proposed sequence for preparing an application to a candidate city's context, please consider the following issues:

♣ Drafting and submitting an application can take longer than anticipated. Adequate time needs to be dedicated to the preparation phase, the constitution of a management team and the consultative group. ♣ The management team and the focal point should start by reading carefully the UCCN Mission Statement, Application Form and Designation Procedure. Additional information on the Network and its activities is available on the website: <http://en.unesco.org/creativecities/>.

♣ Ensure an active participation of all the relevant local stakeholders and actors to ensure engagement and ownership of the process. These serve to gather the necessary information on the cultural assets, experiences and expertise of the city, sketch out the main lines of the city's strategy and action plan.

### **Filling the Application Form**

Applications must be submitted using the official Application Form of the particular year available on the UCCN website. All the sections of the form must be completed for the application to be considered complete and valid. Incomplete applications will not be submitted to the evaluators. Avoid listing activities, initiatives or infrastructures;

therefore, it is encouraged to provide brief answers to each section, including the most relevant information for assessing the cultural and creative assets of the city as well as the feasibility and potential of the proposed action plan by the evaluators.

Please note that word limits in the Form are enforced and that it will not be possible to enter additional text once the limit is reached. Using the 'Word Count' function will facilitate this process. The application must be consistent and succinct, and written in clear and fluent English or French. Applications submitted in other languages will not be taken into consideration. When neither of the working languages is familiar to the team/person drafting the application, it is recommended that the application be written in a native language and then the final version is translated through a certified translator. Poorly translated applications can lead to confusion in the evaluation phase.

### **Submission of the application**

The application must be submitted via email to: [ccnapplications@unesco.org](mailto:ccnapplications@unesco.org), with the "subject": Application of [name of the candidate city].

This email must include the following attachments:

- (i) A complete list of all the documents included in the application file;
- (ii) The completed formal Application Form of the year concerned in its standard Word format available on the UCCN's website;
- (iii) A formal letter of intention from the Applicant City's Mayor presenting the candidature and the support of the Municipality;
- (iv) A formal letter of endorsement of the candidature from the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in which the city is located;
- (iv) Two formal letters of support from active main national professional associations in the creative field concerned<sup>4</sup> ;
- (v) Three photos of the applicant city closely related to the creative field concerned (JPEG, max. 3MB each);
- (vii) The form "Cession of Rights and Register of Photos", which is annexed to the Application Form, dully filled.

### **Network 7. UNESCO/ NETEXPLO OBSERVATORY**

Netexplo, is an independent observatory that studies the impact of digital tech on society and business. These technologies include artificial intelligence, big data, biotech, the Internet of Things, gaming, cybersecurity, robotics, blockchain, social media and 3D printing. Netexplo was created in 2007 by Martine Bidegain and Thierry Happe with the support of the French Senate and Ministry of Innovation and the Digital Economy and has been a UNESCO partner since 2011.



The Netexplo Observatory takes a unique, innovative approach to the study of digital society. Through its international spotting network, made up of globally renowned universities in the technology sphere, Netexplo explores the world for new uses of digital tech.

In November 2017, UNESCO and Netexplo signed an agreement to renew their cooperation for the upcoming 4 years. The UNESCO-Netexplo Observatory is a Programme that helps in sharing the best practices on Smart Cities all around the world. The Programme addresses these goals by highlighting promising digital initiatives from around the world and fostering the emergence of knowledge societies. It involves studying digital society and exploring the world for new uses of technology. The Netexplo Observatory builds its original approach on an international university network. This is a voluntary network made up of lecturers in tech-related subjects at globally renowned universities. In return for their participation, they benefit from Netexplo's work and content. Their students are tasked with spotting the most innovative and promising digital projects worldwide.

The concept of the smart city that started in early 2000 seeks to provide answers to the challenges of cities by combining new technologies with humanist ideals. Some of the challenges include: water security, sanitation, urban violence, inequality, discrimination, pollution, unemployment. In a world where urbanization is expanding, these are some of the critical challenges that cities will have to face as they are home to half the world's population today and expected to shelter two-thirds of it by 2050

Through innovative urban systems, smart cities promote socio-economic development while enhancing the quality of life. In a smart city, new technologies are put at the service of the well-being of its inhabitants. Huge opportunities are opening up with smart cities. But to be effective, this "smartness" must adopt a humanistic approach, and leave no one behind ( *Smart Cities: Shaping Societies for 2030*, co-edited by UNESCO and the Netexplo Observatory, [12th Annual Netexplo Forum](#), 17 to 19 April 2019, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris).

The partnership between UNESCO and the Netexplo Observatory honours places around the world that have distinguished themselves through innovation in the field of the intelligent, sustainable and inclusive city. There are so far 19 universities in the Netexplo Network. In Africa, it is only the Cape Town University, Cape Town, (South Africa) that is member of the network.

There are currently ten criteria developed to categorize cities based on innovation being at the heart of smart cities. The criteria ensure that cities are connected, intelligent, innovative, creative, inclusive, resilient, and decidedly sustainable as the cities of tomorrow and vying for innovation to address the challenge of sustainable development. The challenges to respond to are about what the future cities would look like and which cities are cities for future generations. So far for 2020, the ten **Netexplo Smart Cities 2020 are designated in terms of Mobility**, Education (public Virtual University using ICT to address inequalities in accessing higher education) , Datasphere, Attractiveness, Transportation, Financing, Zero Carbon Goal ( innovation in energy and public health), Resilience, Digital Transformation and Housing.

UNESCO's approach to urban development links issues of access and inclusion, global citizenship education, advocacy, economy and employment, innovation and creativity, climate change prevention and resilience. In just five years, cities have become UNESCO's leading partners in bringing international ambitions closer to local realities in support of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The UNESCO Netexplo has of recent held two events: the Netexplo Innovation Forum and the Netexplo Smart Cities Accelerator in the month of September. The Netexplo Smart Cities Accelerator programme is for sharing the best practices on Smart Cities all around the world varying from safety, to funding models, to infrastructure, attractiveness and various solutions depending the diversity of cultures and territories, all of them as sources of inspiration. The event helps the city decision-makers to seize the opportunities offered by Smart Cities to improve the lives of women and men worldwide and offers insights on smart city management, taking stock from the experiences of matured selected cities worldwide. The **Smart Cities Accelerator** program also includes an online component, certified by four leading universities: ESCP Europe Business School, Telecom Paris, Peking University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The Innovation Forum 2020 showcases breakthrough digital innovations with the potential of profound and lasting impact on the digital society. The innovations are spotted worldwide through a year-long work by the Netexplo University Network, made up of globally renowned universities in the technology domain. The Innovation Forum highlighted some of the most promising global innovators in digital technologies, whose innovations have influenced the development of society through new forms of education, communication, information, solidarity and management around the globe

### **Joining the Programmes**

Cities can participate in the UNESCO Netexplo Forum after its advertisement by UNESCO. In 2020 the programme was held online at <http://en.unesco.org/netexplo> and the contact for [Netexplo Smart Cities Accelerator](#) after its advertisement by UNESCO due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Chapter 9: ICESCO: Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization**

### **A) Programme for the Celebration of Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development**

In a decision of the 4th Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held in Rabat, at ICESCO headquarters, on 9-10 May 2017, ICESCO developed a document which mandated it to draw up a Programme for Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

This festivity would be an opportunity to show the progress made regarding the best environmental practices in the Islamic world and acknowledge Member States' efforts and commitments to environment protection. It would help to raise environmental awareness in the Islamic world, and as a celebration, would provide an opportunity to draw the attention of Member States to the issues of the environment and promising greener future for the future generations for sustainable development.

It was resolved to select Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development biennially in accordance with the specified criteria.

Every two years, a list of three Islamic capitals will be adopted throughout the period 2018-2028.

The three capitals will represent the Arab, Asian and African regions, respectively. The nomination will be adopted and announced simultaneously with the Green City Prize, which is the 5th component of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World (KSAAEM) and with the convening of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

#### **The Selection Criteria:**

Each Member State will nominate, through its National Commission and its Ministry of the Environment, a city for selection as "the Islamic Capital of the Environment and Sustainable Development". This nomination will be accompanied and supported by the provision of a nomination dossier containing the following documents:

A report (20 pages) describing the achievements and efforts made by this city to preserve the environment and promote sustainable development. This report must address the following topics:

- Management and recirculation of water and waste water;
- Waste management and recycling;
- Climate change, mitigation and adaptation;
- Nature and biodiversity preservation;
- Energy saving and renewable energy;
- Land sustainable management;
- Air quality and acoustic environment;
- Sustainable green building;
- Clean and smart transportation. (These will score 30 marks)

A description (detailed according to a specific outline) of future actions whereby the city plans to improve the current state of the environment (30 Marks)

A detailed programme of the celebration of this event (40 marks).

Any candidacy that receives a score below 50 points will not be selected. A list of cities will be set chronologically based on the score that will be awarded to each city.

#### **2 ICESCO's Contribution to the celebration of the Islamic Capitals of the Environment and Sustainable Development:**

ICESCO will contribute to the festivities related to this event by organizing a series of activities, colloquia, training workshops, Selection criteria, and Score Report describing the achievements and efforts made by this city to preserve the environment and promote sustainable development (30 points) Description of the future actions whereby the city plans to improve the current state of the environment (30 points), A detailed programme of the celebration of this event (40 points), 7 fairs and sensitization activities on the environment and sustainable development.

ICESCO may also take part in the programme of the celebration with other activities which will be part of a prior agreement between the Organization and the parties concerned in the Member States.

### **3 Measures to be taken by the different parties:**

In order to ensure a successful organization of this festivity, there are two key preparatory steps to be taken: one before the year of celebration and another during the said year. For each step, there are necessary arrangements to be undertaken for the preparation of the event.

#### **3-1 Arrangements to undertake before the year of celebration In cooperation with ICESCO, the State whose nominated city is selected as the Islamic Capital of the Environment and Sustainable Development will be requested to make the following arrangements:**

- i. Create a supreme committee for the celebration of the Islamic Capital of the Environment and Sustainable Development;
- ii. Appoint the Bureau of the supreme committee and sub-committees and determine their respective mandates;
- iii. Designate the national coordinator of the celebration and of the focal point with ICESCO General Directorate;
- iv. Design the logo of the celebration, in coordination with ICESCO;
- v. Prepare a complete set of advertising materials of the celebration (leaflets, badges, banners, videos, etc);
- vi. Prepare an introductory academic material on the Capital to ensure its media reach and publication on ISESCO website and other websites dedicated to the celebrations;
- vii. Draw up a national programme of the activities scheduled for the celebration and ensure the follow-up of its implementation;
- viii. Set the official launch date of the celebration, in coordination with ICESCO; 9- Set the official closing date of the celebration, in coordination with ICESCO.

For its part, ICESCO will make sure to:

- i. Contribute to the preparations relating to the official opening and closing ceremonies of the celebration;

- ii. 2- Ensure the coordination, follow-up and counsel on the celebration's implementation steps to guarantee the success of the event ; 3- Develop, in coordination with the supreme committee for the celebration, a programme of scientific, educational and communicative activities to contribute to the celebration.

### **3-2 Arrangements to undertake throughout the celebration year**

Throughout the celebration year, the activities must be carried out in an intensive and balanced manner. However, in order to keep abreast of the annual international and national events relating to the theme of the environment, particularly the World Environment Day, Tree Day, Earth Day, World Forest Day, and others, activities may be implemented throughout the year on the occasion of these events. The celebration programme may include the following activities:

- Holding conferences and colloquia under themes related to the preservation of the biosphere, climate change and sustainable development;
- Organizing exhibitions of books, manuscripts, documents and posters;
- Organizing sensitization campaigns and educational activities or field trips for students, in collaboration with schools in order to sensitize the future generations to the protection of the planet. - Designing billboards advertising the event and the activities to be held;
- Organizing a painting contest for students on one of the themes related to environment protection and sustainable development;
- Organizing an exhibition of painting, wood art and recycled items; - Screening movies and organizing musical concerts on the theme of the environment;
- Organizing visits to natural parks and reserves and to key infrastructure projects for the protection of the environment, for the benefit of the participants;
- Organizing information and open days in several institutions operating in the field of applied research on themes related to the environment and sustainable development;
- Organizing a contest for young creators of the Islamic Capital of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the field of research and scientific production. This contest will be an opportunity to pay tribute to key figures of the city who will be recognized for their contributions in this field;
- Organizing a contest for the best community work in the environmental field in order to encourage civil society and environmental associations to exert more efforts and reward the associations most active in this field.

It is worth noting that these activities are given as examples. Each Capital of the Environment and Sustainable Development may prepare and suggest its own programme, tailored to its vision and priorities in this field.

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